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**Title:**

Speech at swearing in of Sir Douglas Nicholls as Governor of South Australia

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Speech by the Premier, Don Dunstan, at swearing in of Sir Douglas Nicholls as Governor of South Australia. 1.12.76

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Sir Douglas and Lady Nicholls, Your Excellency the Luitenant Governor, My Lord Mayor, The Leader of the Opposition and my Ministerial and Parliamentary Colleagues, Your Honours and Citizens of South Australia :

The office of Governor, is an office which is sometimes misunderstood by some people. It is of vital constitutional importance in any system of Government which follows the Westminster precedent.

The primary duty of a Governor is, as an independent representative of Her Majesty, to ensure that the Executive of the State acts in accordance with the authority given to the Executive by the legislature and generally by law.

The reason why this particular role is not often obvious to the average citizen is that by the very existence of the office the Executive is dissuaded from exceeding its authority. But it is nevertheless a vital and important role.

Those people who suggest that the role should be filled in some other way overlook the facts that it has to be filled if the Westminster system is to operate, and that no system of electing somebody to that office would serve the State or the Nation as well as appointments of representatives of the Queen have done.

This is a vitally important office for the State and the Governor, acting in accordance with constitutional precedent and convention, has the duty of staying above dissention and of uniting the people of the State effectively in respect and affection for the holder of the office and respect for the way in which he will effectively carry out that most high duty.

Sir Douglas, we in South Australia are proud that you have accepted Her Majesty's commission as Governor of South Australia. You Sir, have lived already a life which has earned you the respect and affection of an enormous number of Australian people. Throughout your life you have worked tirelessly and selflessly for the betterment of others and you have done it, not only with dedication and determination, but at the same time without pretence or pretention. You have earned the respect and affection in which people hold you and I know that the same respect and affection will be accorded to you by all the people of our State.

Those feelings will grow throughout the community as people come to know not only your uprightness but your warm-heartedness and your humility.

I know that you will be a much loved Governor of this State.

We also know that you have come here not as the aboriginal governor of South Australia, but as the Governor of the whole people. Nevertheless, South Australia is proud that it is the first State in which a member of the original race of Australians has attained the highest office in the State.

Sir, we make you most welcome. We believe that your stay in South Australia will be a great one for South Australia. We know that you already feel a great love for this State and its people and that that will be demonstrated during your term of office.

Speech by the Premier, Don Dunstan, at swearing in of Sir Douglas Nicholls as Governor of South Australia. 1.12.76

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